

Message Text

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64

ACTION AID-59

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R 191320Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0244

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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PARIS FOR OECD WILLIAMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NG/ XY

SUBJ: DAC CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS PARTICIPATION IN CILSS MEETING NIAMEY
MARCH 14

REF: A. NIAMEY 1024 (NOTAL); B. NIAMEY 1033 (NOTAL)

1. AT INVITATION OF CILSS REGIONAL COORDINATOR DAKOURE, DAC CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS MADE HIS PRESENTATION REGARDING POSSIBLE QUOTE CLUB DE AMIS DU SAHEL UNQUOTE TO CILSS MEETING AFTERNOON MARCH 14. WILLIAMS WILL BE REPORTING SUBSTANCE OF HIS REMARKS AND REACTION THERETO SEPARATELY FROM PARIS. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS COMMENTS WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE ON PRESENTATION AND RELATED OBSERVATIONS.

2. OUR PRESENT INFORMATION IS SECOND-HAND AS NONE OF
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NIGER DELEGATES TO CILSS MEETING ARE CURRENTLY IN TOWN.

HOWEVER, FROM ALL WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER WILLIAMS' SPEECH WAS WELL RECEIVED. CILSS SECRETARY GENERAL KNOATE DESCRIBED IT AS COGENT AND CLEAR PRESENTATION ON IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF SAHEL.

3. FAVORABLE REACTION IS NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE DAKOURE ALREADY UNDER ATTACK FOR HIS MANAGEMENT OF CILSS WAS DEFENSIVE AND APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO STACK CARDS AGAINST WILLIAMS. ALTHOUGH WILLIAMS WAS APPEARING AT INVITATION OF DAKOURE, LATTER APPARENTLY FELT THAT PRESENCE OF DAC REPRESENTATIVE MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY SAHEL DELEGATIONS AS IMPLIED CRITICISM OF DAKOURE'S PERFORMANCE OR ALTERNATELY MIGHT BE EFFORT TO UPSTAGE HIM. ACCORDINGLY, DAKOURE REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED TO DELEGATES BEFORE WILLIAMS' PRESENTATION THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HEAR WILLIAMS AND THEN VOTE TO ASK DAC TO PUT PROPOSAL IN WRITING FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT CILSS SESSION, THEREBY BURYING MATTER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. HOWEVER, WILLIAMS' SPEECH CARRIED DAY WITH GAMBIA, SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING INTEREST IN HEARING MORE ABOUT DAC PROPOSAL. THIS REACTION WAS SUFFICIENT TO SHELVE DAKOURE'S SUGGESTION AND MEETING BROKE UP WITH GENERALLY POSITIVE REACTION TO DAC INITIATIVE WITHOUT HOWEVER REACHING ANY DECISION ON NEXT STEPS. ONLY NEGATIVE COMMENT REACHING US IS THAT SOME DELEGATES WHILE INTERESTED WERE APPREHENSIVE THAT ASSOCIATION WITH HIGH POWERED ORGANIZATION LIKE DAC MIGHT OVERWHELM CILSS.

4. INCIDENTAL NOTES: (A) AT LUNCHEON FOR DELEGATIONS GIVEN BY MINISTER FOR RURAL ECONOMY BAYERE MOUSSA AS GON HOST, WILLIAMS AND UNDP REP ROTIVAL WERE ONLY OUTSIDERS INVITED. THIS ACKNOWLEDGED UN ROLE AND HONORED WILLIAMS. MAGDI OF UNSO NOT REPEAT NOT INVITED. (B) FRENCH COOPERATION MINISTER ABELIN, WHO WAS IN TOWN FOR FRANCO-NIGERIEN COMMISSION MEETING, AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH WILLIAMS' INITIATIVE AND IN VARIOUS WAYS INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONALIZING LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO SAHEL.NPKC) AFTER MEETING WITH WILLIAMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARCH 14, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MARTHIEU WHO HAD BEEN LESS THAN HELPFUL AT JANUARY 30 SESSION IN I GIS INFORMED US THAT HE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH DAC INITIATIVE AND EXPRESSED VIEW WE COULD HENCEFORTH COUNT ON CANADIAN SUPPORT.HECK

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